

PICO-PICO BOY 少年

押切 蓮介



PICO-PICO BOY

RENSUKE OSHIKIRI

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文庫本

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PICO-PICO BOYS

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THE FIRST
VIDEO GAME
I EVER
PLAYED WAS
WATCH & GAME'S
DONKEY KONG...

AS A CHILD,
I REMEMBER
BEING AMAZED
AT HOW I
COULD MOVE
CHARACTERS
IN THE GAME
BY SIMPLY
PRESSING
A BUTTON.

BOY'S FIRST LOVE





I DIDN'T
JUST LIKE
TAKANE...
I LOVED
HER!

TAKANE AND
I LIVED IN
THE SAME
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD, AND WE
WERE BOTH
IN FIRST
GRADE.



TODAY I'M
HEADING
INTO TOWN
WITH YAMA-
MURA'S
MOTHER...

SO YOU'LL
HAVE TO STAY
WITH TAKANE
WHILE WE'RE
GONE.



SHE WASN'T VERY
GOOD AT ADDING,
AND SHE WAS
CLEARLY A LOT
DUMBER THAN ME,
BUT I LOVED
THAT ABOUT
HER, TOO.

IT'S
NICE THE
WAY SHE
USES HER
HANDS...



I LOVED
HOW ALOOF
SHE WAS
AND HOW
DISINTERESTED
SHE SEEMED
IN MOST
THINGS!



WHAT
DO YOU
DO ALL
DAY AROUND
THE HOUSE?

WHY?

WHY...?
HUH...? WHY
DON'T YOU
STUDY, TAKANE?



THE FIRST
NINTENDO
HOME GAME
CONSOLE
RELEASED IN
1983.

YES,
VIDEO
GAMES.
SHE
HAD...



VIDEO
GAMES?!



I PLAY
VIDEO
GAMES.

I WAS
SO IN
SHOCK
THAT I
NEARLY
HAD A
PANIC
ATTACK!



IT CAME, WITH
MUSIC, AND WAS
IN COLOR!
AND THE IMAGE
WAS SO LARGE
ON THE
TELEVISION
SCREEN!

I LOVED
THE GAME
ER KUNG FU,
BUT IT OVER-
STIMULATED
ME...



AT THIS
TIME, IN
1988...

THE WORLD
HE WAS IN
LOOKED
DIFFERENT.
IT LOOKED
MUCH HIGHER
QUALITY!!



THERE WAS
DONKEY KONG
WHO I'VE SEEN
COUNTLESS
TIMES ON
THE SCREEN
OF MY GAME
WATCH,
BUT...

WHAT'S
THAT?!

IF YOU
LIKE
COMBAT
GAMES,
I HAVE
SPARTAN X,
TOO.



HAD ME
IN A
COMPLETE
FRENZY.

SPARTAN X
ALSO...



I WOULD
DRAW
COUNTLESS
DOODLES
OF THE
ER KUNG FU
PACKAGING
ARTWORK.



IT HAD
TOO STRONG
AN INFLU-
ENCE ON ME.





I COULD
HAVE LIVED
THE REST
OF MY LIFE
PLAYING
VIDEO
GAMES
WITH THE
GIRL I
LIKED.

I DIDN'T
CARE IF I
BECAME
STUPID.



THIS WAS
WAY MORE
FUN THAN
STUDYING!!

I COULD
SEE WHY
TAKANE
NEVER
STUDIED
AND JUST
PLAYED
VIDEO
GAMES...



TAKANE...
CAN I TAKE
THIS AS A
SIGN OF
YOUR LOVE
FOR ME?

KARATEKA...

GEGEGE NO KITARO...

TAKANE STARTED
BRINGING ME
GAMES SHE THOUGHT
I MIGHT LIKE.



I WAS
GROWING UP
TO BE A BOY
WHO COULDN'T
MULTIPLY OR
DIVIDE.

BY THE TIME
WE ENTERED
THE 2ND GRADE,
I HAD BECOME
ADDICTED TO
PLAYING
VIDEO GAMES
AT TAKANE'S
HOUSE EVERY
DAY.



ONE
SUCH
DAY...



I LOVE
THAT YOU
CAN SPEND
HOURS PLAYING
ADVENTURE
ISLAND.

OH,
TAKANE...





PLAYING
GOONIES
IS SO MUCH
FUN I JUST
CAN'T KEEP
STILL!

PERHAPS
THAT'S WHY
I DIDN'T
REALIZE
AT THE
TIME THAT
TAKANE'S
I'M SORRY
MEANT THAT
OUR DAYS
OF FUN
TOGETHER
WERE OVER.



PERHAPS
IT WAS
BECAUSE
I HAD JUST
BEEN GIVEN
A NINTENDO
AND WAS IN
ECSTASY...



THE FACT
THAT I DIDN'T
FEEL THE SLIGHTEST
BIT OF LONELINESS...

'BOILING'

THE FACT THAT
I DIDN'T FEEL
UNCOMFORTABLE
AT ALL WITHOUT
TAKANE THERE
NEXT TO ME...



I ON THE
OTHER
HAND...

SHE EVEN
WENT TO
A PRIVATE
SCHOOL.
THERE
WAS NO
SIGN LEFT
OF THE
OLD, SLOW
TAKANE I
HAD ONCE
KNOWN.

BY 6TH
GRADE,
TAKANE HAD
BECOME
TOP OF
HER CLASS.

4
YEARS
LATER



SHOULD SERVE
AS PROOF THAT
I WAS MORE
ADDICTED TO
VIDEO GAMES
THAN TAKANE,
RIGHT..?

I KNOW!
I KNOW!
BUY HEY -
I HEARD
THAT YOU'RE
NOT GONNA
BE ABLE
TO BE GUY
IN THE
NEW ONE.

DID YA HEAR?
THE NEW
FINAL FIGHT
IS COMING
OUT ON SUPER
NBS JUST BEFORE
WINTER BREAK!!

HAGGAR?
WHO NEEDS
HAGGAR?

WHO CARES?
WHY WOULD
YOU WANT TO
BE GUY WHEN
YOU COULD BE
HAGGAR?

AND OF COURSE
I HAD TO BUY
THE HOME
COMPUTER
WITH THE
REWRITABLE DISK
SYSTEM, TOO.



EVER SINCE
THE DAY I
RECEIVED
THAT NINTENDO,
I HAD BECOME
TRULY ADDICTED
TO VIDEO
GAMES.

EVER
SINCE
THAT DAY,
IT WAS
HARD FOR
ME TO
SPEAK TO
TAKANE.

THOUGH I
WAS IN
THE 6TH
GRADE, I
WAS STILL
THE SAME
2ND GRADER.
I WAS THE
DAY I
GOT THAT
NINTENDO.

NUMERATOR?
DENOMINATOR?
WHAT ARE
THOSE?!

!

BOYS SHOULD
BE BOYS AND
PLAY OUTSIDE!

EWW!
IT'S
GAMERS!
I HATE
GAMERS!

HEH.

VIDEO
GAMES
MAY HAVE
STOLEN
MY MIND
AND MY LOVE...

TAKANE GAVE
ME A SPACESHIP
WITH WHICH I
WAS ABLE TO
TRAVEL TO ALL
SORTS OF
EXCITING
WORLDS.

BUT I
HAVE NO
REGRETS.

I DIDN'T KNOW IF
I SHOULD GO TO
PLANET PS OR
PLANET SATURN,
BUT I CHOSE
PLANET SATURN.

PLANET
NEO-GEO...
PLANET
MEGA
DRIVE...

AND THEN THE PC
ENGINE!
PLANETS... PLANT
CD-ROM...
PLANET PC
ENGINE GT...

PLANET FLOPPY
DISK...
PLANET SNBS...
PLANET
GAMEBOY...

IF I HAD
TO SAY, I
WOULD SAY
I FEEL
NOTHING BUT
GRATITUDE
TOWARDS
TAKANE...

END

AND I'M
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO SEEING
WHAT NEW
WORLDS I
CAN TRAVEL
TO AND
EXPLORE
IN THE
FUTURE.

PLANET
PS2...
PLANET
DREAMCAST...

SHITHEAD VIRGINS

PLAYERS IN THE GAME OF LOVE

THAT'S
US!



NO WOMEN
SEEM
INTERESTED
IN US.

PATHETIC
WHEN IT
CAME TO
SPORTS...



WHY
ARE THOSE
LOWER
VIRGINS
OFF TO
TODAY?

WE BUZZED
AROUND
OUTSIDE
LIKE THE
PESTS THAT
WE WERE...



COULDN'T
ADD...

COULDN'T
PAINT...



TODAY WE
ONCE AGAIN
RUN AROUND
LIKE SHIT-
HEADS FULL
OF SHIT.

"SHIT"
REALLY
IS THE
WORD THAT
DESCRIBES
US BEST.















END

GENPEI TOLIMA DEN
AND SPLATTER HOUSE...

TWO GAMES I
ABSOLUTELY LOVED...



**PC ENGINE
BOY**

WHOOOOA!!

I RAN!

WHEN I HEARD
THAT VERSIONS
OF BOTH HAD
COME OUT
FOR HOME
CONSOLES...



I
WANTED
IT BADLY.



I
WANTED
IT.

WITH HIS
WONDERFUL
HARD CORE
VERSIONS
OF THE
AMIGA
GAMES I
LOVED...

THE
PC
ENGINE...







IN
SPLATTER
HOUSE,
I WANT TO
CUT THOSE
MONSTERS'
HEADS OFF
AND SAVE
JENNIFER!!

IN
SENPEI YOUNG
PARK,
I WANT TO
KILL BEANKEE,
YOSHITSUNE, AND
ALL OF THOSE
GUYS SO I
CAN OVERTHROW
YORTOMAO!!



DAMN!
IF ONLY
I HAD
JUST A
LITTLE
BIT
MORE...

THE
USED
PRICE
IS
\$175...



AMAZINGLY,
THERE WAS A USED GAME
SHOP ON THE MAIN ROAD.
MAYBE THERE I WOULD
FIND A PC ENGINE IN
MY PRICE RANGE...

LASTLY, I
TRIED MY
LUCK IN
INDUSTRYVILLE...



JUST
THAT...

BUT I'M
SO CLOSE...
SO CLOSE...

I FOUND PLENTY
OF USED PC ENGINES,
BUT NONE OF
THE STORES
WOULD LOWER
THEIR PRICE
TO \$150...

BUT...

A
HARD DISK
THAT I HAD
NEVER SEEN
BEFORE
CAUGHT
MY EYE...

!?

A
A
A
R
G
H
!!

I
DIDN'T.

A CONSOLE WHICH
NO CD-ROM
SUPPORT
AND ONLY
USED HU-
CARDS.



PC ENGINE
SHUTTLE,
\$188.

I WAS
SUDDENLY
FILLED
WITH
HOPE
AGAIN...

IF THE SHUTTLE
ONLY COST \$188
BRAND NEW...
THAT MEANT
THERE HAD TO
BE USED SHUTTLES
THAT WOULD
COST UNDER
\$150...!!

WHAT
A DEAL!!

ONLY
\$188...?!

EVEN IF
I COULDN'T
PLAY CD-ROMS
ON IT, HUCARDS
WERE GOOD
ENOUGH
FOR ME...



I MUST FIND
A USED
PC ENGINE
SHUTTLE!!



INTO
SEISEKI
SAKURAGAOKA...

THE FACT, THAT, I
HAD COME THIS
FAR PROVED, HOW
MUCH I WANTED
THAT PC ENGINE.

I WENT OVER
THE HILL...

SHADOW
LAND...

BRAVO
MAN...

THERE
ARE TONS
OF OTHER
GAMES I
WANT TO
PLAY JUST
AS BAD AS
THOSE TWO
I WANTED...

STREET
FIGHTER...







END

THE
COMBINATION
OF SWEET,
DELICIOUS
CANDIES AND
FUN GAMES
WAS CHARMING.
WE WANTED IT
TO STAY OPEN
ALL DAY AND
NIGHT.

CANDY SHOPPE

THE
OLD CANDY
SHOPPE WAS
PARADISE TO
US SCHOOL-
KIDS.



I WAS
OFTEN
TOLD
THOSE
KINDS OF
THINGS.

YOU'LL
GET CANCER,
YOU KNOW,
REALLY!

KAN...
ARE YOU
EATING
CANDY
AGAIN?



ARCADE
GAMES
USUALLY
COST A LOT
TO PLAY, BUT
HERE
THEY'RE
ONLY A BOY!
IT'S GREAT!

NO WAY!
THIS IS
JUST MY
TECHNIQUE!

YOU'RE
PLAYING
AS SLOW
AS A SNAIL!
THAT'S
UNFAIR!
YOU'RE A
COWARD!

YOU'RE
PLAYING
FINAL
FIGHT
AGAIN!

WELL THE
FINAL STAGE
IS REALLY
HARD...

AND
THERE'S
CANDY!



THE SCREENS
OF THESE
MACHINES WERE
LEVEL TO
THE GROUND, AND
ALL HAD A TERRIBLE
GLARE WHICH
MADE IT HARD
TO SEE THE GAMES.

I
CAN'T
SEE.



BUT
IN THE
MIDDLE
OF THE
SHOOPS,
THERE
WERE
OLDER,
SHODDER
LOOKING
MACHINES.

IN GENERAL,
THE GAMES
WERE NEW
AND PAINTED
ORANGE.



THAT
HAPPENED
ALL THE
TIME.

HEY!!
THE
BUTTONS
DON'T
WORK!!

THE
MOST
COMMON
PROBLEM
WAS THAT
THE
BUTTONS
DIDN'T
WORK.



THE
PERSON
WHO MADE
THIS
DIDN'T
THINK
AT ALL
ABOUT THE
SIZE OF
HUMAN
HAND...
JESUS!!

CRAMPED

THE
DISTANCE
BETWEEN
THE
BUTTONS
AND
LEVERS
ON EACH
MACHINE
WAS
SMALL
AND
CRAMPED.



DID YOU
WIN THE
GAME?!

I BEAT VEGA
WITH ONE
LEVER ONLY
USING KICKS
AND MEDIUM
PUNCHES!

ONCE WHILE
I WAS PLAYING
STREET
FIGHTER II,
4 OUT OF 6
BUTTONS
STOPPED
WORKING.



WE KNEW
IT MADE THE
OLD WOMAN
HAPPY WHEN
WE PLAYED
HER GAMES.
WHAT KIND
BOYS WE
WERE!

WE STILL
PLAYED THE
GAMES,
EVEN IF
ONE OR
TWO OF
THEM
DIDN'T
WORK.



THE OLD WOMAN
WHO RAN THE
SHOP HAD NO
IDEA HOW TO
FIX THE MACHINES
WHEN THEY
BROKE DOWN,
SO SHE JUST
IGNORED
IT WHEN IT
HAPPENED.



THESE SWEETS WERE MORE THAN JUST SNACKS... THEY SERVED AS MEDICINE TO US AND BROUGHT OUR WEARY BODIES BACK TO LIFE.

THE CANDY SHOPPE WAS THE PLACE WE WENT TO AFTER A LONG DAY OF SCHOOL TO RELAX AND TO REVIVE OUR TIRED SPIRITS.

THE GAMES SATISFIED OUR SOULS, AND THE CANDY OUR STOMACHS WHEN WE TOOK A BREAK.



DAMN THESE PLUMS ARE GOOD!

I WOULD BREAK THE END OF THE CRACKER OFF AND USE IT TO SPREAD THE JAM AROUND.

I WOULD PUT TWO PACKS OF PLUM JAM ON TOP OF A CRACKER.

SHRIMP GEMMET CRACKERS \$1.20

PLUM JAM \$1.10

MY TWO FAVORITE THINGS IN THE CANDY SHOPPE WERE SHRIMP GEMMET CRACKERS AND PLUM JAM.



WE WERE TOLD THAT IF YOU HAD TO PEEL OFF THE WRAPPER, IT WAS NO GOOD!

YOU HAD TO FINISH EATING SOME OF THE WRAPPER AND PUSH IT IN TOWARDS THE CENTER OF THE BOWL.

THERE WAS A TRICK TO OPENING THESE.



FOR \$1.10 YOU COULD BUY KATTA NOODLES.



THE GAMES WERE SOLD IN PLUM AND JAM IN A BOX.

THEY STILL HAVE THE SAME TASTE...

THEY BOTH COST THE SAME, \$1.20, BUT THE CHOCO-BAT GAVE WITH A STRAW... BUT I REALLY LIKED THE TEXTURE OF THE CHOCO-CAKES.

CHOCO-CAKES OR A CHOCO-BAT..?

NOW I WANTED TO TRY SOMETHING NEW TO EAT...



CHOCO-CAKES \$1.20

WRITTEN ON IT RIGHT IN A CORNER FOR A CERTAIN AMOUNT THAT YOU COULD USE TOWARDS OTHERS IN THE SHOPPE.

ONE HAD TO BE SURE NOT TO FORGET TO CHECK THE BOTTOM OF THE WRAPPER!





OUT OF ALL OF THE
GAMES THERE, THOUGH,
THE ONE THAT NEVER
LOST MY INTEREST
WAS CHINA GATE,
MADE BY TECHNOS JAPAN.

CHINA GATE

MYSTERIOUS FIGHTING
STICK



CHECK OUT HOW EVIL
THESE THREE LOOK!

WILL HAVE TO STORM
THE TEMPLE
OF THE
DEMONS.

IN ORDER
TO RESCUE
THE BUDDHIST
SUTRA WHO
HAS BEEN
KIDNAPPED
BY EVIL
DEMONS,
THREE
CHARACTERS,
SON GOKU,
CHO HAKKAI,
AND SHI
SONGOU...

I WONDER
IF THIS
CHINA GATE
GAME WILL
BE ANY
GOOD...



WHAT ARE
THE PEOPLE
LIKE WHO
CREATED
SUCH A
WORLD?

WOW...
WHAT AN
AMAZING
WORLD...!



AS YOU
MAKE YOUR
WAY THROUGH
THE DIFFERENT
LEVELS,
YOU WILL
ENCOUNTER
VARIOUS
ENEMIES
THAT YOU
MUST KILL.



AND IF HE
HIT YOU
WITH THE
LEGGED HE
SPINDED, IT
MEANT
INSTANT
DEATH.

BUT THE LAST
BOSS'S MOVE-
MENTS WERE
INCREDIBLY
HARD TO
PREDICT, AND
IF HE HIT
YOU IT WOULD
CAUSE MAJOR
DAMAGE.

I WAS SUCH
A PRISONER
TO THIS GAME
THAT I EVENTUALLY
WAS ABLE TO
BEAT THE ENTIRE
GAME USING
ONLY ONE CODE.





WAS MORE
THAN
ENOUGH TO
DISAPPOINT
ME...

BUT WHEN
I ENTERED,
WHAT I SAW...

WAS MORE
THAN
ENOUGH TO
DISAPPOINT
ME...

BUT WHEN
I ENTERED,
WHAT I SAW...

THE CANDY
HAD DISAP-
PEARED,
AND THE
PLACE
HAD BEEN
CONVERTED
INTO A
SMALL
GAME CENTER
WHICH
LOOKED
DESERTED.

THERE
WERE
ONLY
GAMES.

THE CANDY HAD DISAPPEARED, AND THE PLACE HAD BEEN CONVERTED INTO A SMALL GAME CENTER WHICH LOOKED DESERTED.

THERE WERE ONLY GAMES.

**STREET FIGHTER
ZERO 3,
KING OF
FIGHTERS '98,
GAROU DENSETSU
SPECIAL,
SAMURAI SPIRITS,
REAL BOUT...**

HER HUSBAND WAS IN THE BACK ROOM WATCHING TV.



I
WONDERED
IF THE
OLD LADY
HAD ALREADY
PASSED
AWAY...

THE PASSAGE OF
TIME IS A CRUEL
THING, AND IT
HAD STOLEN THE
OLD LADY'S LIFE
ALONG WITH THE
CANDY IN WHICH I
HAD DELIGHTED
SO MUCH AS
A BOY.

HAD TO TRY
MY HAND AT
STREET
FIGHTER
ZERO...

THE PASSAGE OF
TIME IS A CRUEL
THING, AND IT
HAD STOLEN THE
OLD LADY'S LIFE
ALONG WITH THE
CANDY IN WHICH I
HAD DELIGHTED
SO MUCH AS
A BOY.

HAD TO TRY
MY HAND AT
STREET
FIGHTER
ZERO...

WAR TO WIN BACK THE GAME CENTER



IT HAPPENED IN THE GAME CENTER LOCATED ON THE TOP FLOOR OF THE WEST-CENTRAL DEPARTMENT STORE. AT THE TIME, THERE WERE ABOUT 10 OF US UP THERE...





JUST WHEN
I'M REALLY
STARTING
TO GET THE
HANG OF
**SAMURAI
SPIRITS!!**

THEY
SAY WE
CAN'T
COME
TO THE
GAME
CENTER?
ARE THEY
KIDDING?

THOSE
NORTH-
CENTRAL
IDIOTS
ARE SO
PRIMI-
TIVE!!

WHY DOES
IT HAVE TO
BE LIKE
THIS...?
WHY ARE
WE VIEWED
AS ENEMIES
JUST
BECAUSE
WE GO
TO DIFFERENT
SCHOOLS?

RETREAT!!!

NORTH-
CENTRAL!
NORTH-
CENTRAL'S
HERE!!

I COULD
CRUSH ANY
OPPONENT.

WITH
MY
BEST
CHARACTER,
GENMA...

ALL WE
WANTED
TO DO
WAS HAVE
FUN AND
PLAY THE
GAMES...

BOOTS

THE UTOPIA
THAT WAS OUR
GAME CENTER
HAD BEEN
TRANSFORMED
INTO A BATTLE-
ZONE.

IT-
IT'S
NORTH-
CENTRAL!

EVEN A
PACK OF
BRAINLESS
BULLIES...

YOU
PEOPLE
WHO
MAKE
GREAT
GAMES
FOR
US TO
ENJOY

POISED
AND
PREPARED
TO RUN
AWAY AT
ANY
MOMENT

YOU PEOPLE
WHO MAKE
THESE GAMES
ARE TRULY
AMAZING...



THE FACT THAT WE COULD BE SO ENTRANCED BY THESE GAMES AS TO FORGET THE DANGER SURROUNDING US IS QUITE AN AMAZING THING.



AREN'T ENOUGH TO LURE ME AWAY FROM THE WONDERFUL GAMES YOU PEOPLE MADE.



AAHHH!!!

OVER THERE!
LET'S GET HIM!

I, TOO, WOULD SOMEDAY LIKE TO BECOME A CREATOR OF GAMES THAT ENTRANCE KIDS THE WAY YOURS DO...



YOU KNOW HOW TO USE THOSE??

I'LL SHOW 'EM WITH THESE NUNCHUCKS I BOUGHT IN CHINA-TOWN!!



I'LL BUST 'EM OPEN WITH MY BRASS KNUCKLES!

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!!



WHOA, WHOA!

THAT'S TAKING IT TOO FAR! THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS!!

I MADE THIS CROSSBOW MYSELF!



YAAAAA!!!

OUR PASSION FOR GAMES HAD BROUGHT US TO THIS LEVEL...

WE CAN'T LET THOSE BASTARDS BULLY US AROUND AND STEAL OUR GAMES FROM US!!



STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

THIS
WAS A
DANGEROUS
GETAWAY...

OUR
GAMER
GROUP'S
RETREAT
WAS JUST
AS FIERCE
AS OUR
ASSAULT
HAD BEEN!

WE MADE
A BEELINE
FOR SAFETY
WITH SUCH
SPEED THAT
WE EVEN
SCARED
OURSELVES.

EVEN IN
OUR OWN
TOWN WE
COULDN'T
RELAX AND
FEEL AT
EASE...

ZIG-ZAGGING
THROUGH CROWDS
WAS ANOTHER
SKILL WE
PICKED UP
THANKS TO
VIDEO
GAMES.

ZIG

ZAG

W-
H-
O-
O-
S-
H

THAT
WAS A
TWO-METER
FENCE WE
HOPPED.

EVEN THOUGH
WE'RE MORE
THE ARTISTIC
TYPE, WE
SHOWED
SOME SERIOUS
ATHLETICISM
BACK THERE!

WOW, THAT
WAS AN
AMAZING
GETAWAY,
KAN!

BUT THE
WAR HAD
COME TO
AN END.

I REALLY
HOPE THINGS
QUIT DOWN
BY THE TIME
ART OF
FIGHTING 2
COMES
OUT...

AND JUST WHEN
FATAL FURY
LEGEND OF THE
HUNGRY WOLF
IS ABOUT TO
BE RELEASED...

WE'RE NOT
DONE YET,
GUYS...
LET'S SHOW
THEM WHAT
WEST-
CENTRAL'S
MADE OF!!

THIS TIME
HE HAD \$500
ON HIM AND
THEY ROBBED
IT FROM HIM.

SAME AS
BEFORE,
AKINO WAS
ONCE AGAIN
BEATEN AND
ROBBED.

WE CAN
FINALLY
GO TO
THE GAME
CENTER
WITHOUT
HAVING
TO BE
AFRAID!

THE WAR
IS OVER
AND NOW
PEACEFUL
DAYS
WILL
FOLLOW.

I HEARD
THAT A
TEACHER
FROM NORTH-
CENTRAL
CAME HERE
TO APOLO-
GIZE.

REALLY?!

STILL, WHY
WOULD AKINO
CARRY THAT
MUCH MONEY
AROUND WITH
HIM?

IT SEEMS
THAT AKINO'S
PARENTS
WENT TO
THE POLICE
WHEN THEY
FOUND OUT.

GUIDANCE
COUNSELOR

HOWEVER...

FROM
NOW ON,
YOU ARE
FORBIDDEN
TO VISIT
SUCH PLACES!

I'LL
KILL
YOU!
I
SWEAR
IT!!

AND IF I
FIND OUT
YOU'VE BEEN
TO THE THAT
GAME CENTER,
I'LL KILL YOU!!

BECAUSE OF
YOU THERE
IS A STRAIN
BETWEEN OUR
SCHOOL AND
THEIR!!

AND
TO THE
GAME
CENTER
OF ALL
PLACES...!!

ONLY
LOWLIFE'S
HANG OUT
AT GAME
CENTERS!!

YOU
IDIOTS!!

I'VE TOLD YOU
BEFORE THAT
IT'S AGAINST
SCHOOL REG-
ULATIONS TO
GO TO RECREAT-
IONAL PLACES!

YOU HAVE
A CHALLENGER!

OH...
SOMEONE'S
CHALLENGING
ME...

I WASN'T
ABOUT TO
STOP GOING
TO THE GAMES
CENTER BECAUSE
OF SOME
IDIOT'S
THREATS!
HAHAHA

HAHAHAHAHAHA

THEY'RE
FROM
NORTH-
CENTRAL!!

HAH!!

I'LL HAVE TO
END THIS WAR
WITH NORTH-
CENTRAL...
ON MY OWN.

... HAVE
TO FIGHT
NOW!!

...

DO I RUN
AWAY...?
BUT...
I CAN'T
SURRENDER...

YOU
LOSE!!

HAH!!

...OR
NOT.

END

SHOW-
DOWN!

PERHAPS
FATER
I WON
THIS
MATCH...

PEACE
WAS
UNDER-
STANDING
BETWEEN
[OUR 2]
SCHOOLS
WOULD
FOLLOW

I'VE
WON...

BUT CYRUS
ACTUALLY
A LITTLE BUT
RELIEVED
THESE WERENT
THE SAME
NORTH-CENTRAL
BULLIES FROM
BEFORE.

MIDNIGHT...

PLACE YOUR ORDER

1234

HOWWL

THROUGH
SHEER WILL
AND DETER-
MINATION,
I HAD MANAGED
TO RESERVE
A SPOT IN
THE VERY
FRONT ROW.

THERE,
IN THE
BLISTERING
COLD, I
WAITED
IN LINE
OUTSIDE

A BOY
WAITING IN LINE

I'M
GOING
TO BUY
YOU!!

THE STORE
OPENED AT
10, BUT AT
THE LAST
MINUTE...

GET
READY,
FINAL
FANTASY
V...









OH...
SEVERAL
OTHERS HAD
JOINED ME
IN LINE
WITHOUT ME
NOTICING
THEM...



I
STILL
FELT
COMPLETELY
ALONE.

HOWEVER,
THEY WERE
TOTAL STRANGERS...



WHAT THE HELL
ARE YOU IDIOTS
DOING OUT HERE?!



BUNCH
OF
MORONS...

HUH...?
WHAT
THE HELL'S
GOING
ON?!



WELCOME
TO HELL!

WHAT THE
HELL ARE
YOU BASTARDS
ALL GATHERED
HERE FOR?!





THIS WAS
THE REALITY
IN FRONT
OF US...



WE
SHIVERED
IN THE
COLD...

WE
SHUD-
DERED
IN FEAR
...



IT'S ONLY
IN *FINAL*
FANTASY!

WHAT WE
WERE LOOKING
FOR COULDN'T
BE FOUND
IN THIS
REALITY...



10 O'CLOCK...
PLEASE
COME
QUICKLY!!

I DON'T
WANT TO
SEE THIS
UGLY WORLD
ANymore!!



DAYBREAK...



YAMADA
WAS HERE
IN HELL
WITH US
THE
WHOLE
TIME?!

YAMA-
DA?!







I FELT
RIGHT AT
HOME IN
YAMADA'S
ROOM...

SIX
DRAWERS
DEDICATED
ENTIRELY
TO VIDEO
GAMES...

GAMEBOY

SNES

NES

N64-640

A BOY SURROUNDED
BY ENEMIES



IT TOOK
ENORMOUS
SELF-CONTROL
AND WOULDN'T
BE NECESSARY
IF I SIMPLY
HAD MY OWN
ROOM.

I DIDN'T
HAVE MY
OWN ROOM.
MY MOM COULD
SEE EVERY-
THING AND
I HAD TO
BE SNEAKY
AND CONCEAL
THINGS FROM
HER.



IF I HAD
MY OWN
ROOM LIKE
YAMADA, I
COULD PUT
ALL OF MY
FAVORITE
THINGS
OUT IN THE
OPEN.

IT'D BE
GREAT
TO HAVE
MY OWN
ROOM...



I WANT
TO LIVE OPENLY
AND HONESTLY!!

I WANT THE
FREEDOM TO
BE MYSELF
IN MY OWN
PRIVATE
SPACE LIKE
YAMADA...!

WHAT A
LONELY
LIFE...



THE
AMUSEMENT
PARK IN
THE CITY



HOW EXCITING
TO BE ABLE TO
SEE A VOICE
ACTRESS LIVE...!

YAMADA
WAS A FAN
OF THIS
VOICE
ACTRESS.

YAMADA AND
I WERE HEADED
THERE TO SEE
A CERTAIN
POPULAR VOICE
ACTRESS APPEAR
ON A LIVE RADIO
BROADCAST.



TODAY'S
BROADCAST
IS A VERY
SPECIAL
ONE...

THANK YOU
TO ALL OF
YOU LISTENERS
FOR COMING
OUT ON SUCH
A HOT DAY!

WE KNOW
YOU'RE A GREAT
AUDIENCE, BUT
WHAT ELSE CAN
YOU DO...?
CARE TO
CHALLENGE US
AT A GAME?

WE HAVE
A SPECIAL
OFFER...

BUT IT
WASN'T
KAZAMA
WHO
SOT THE
CHARGE...

ME!

I DO!

ALL OF
YOU WHO
WANT TO
CHALLENGE
US, RAISE
YOUR HAND!

I DO!

AND IF YOU
WIN, WE'LL
GIVE YOU
A FREE
GAME GEAR!!

ME!

AH...
I'D GIVE
ANYTHING
TO MEET
THEM...

THIS WISH CAME TRUE.
THE OPPORTUNITY CAME
TO MEET THESE ACTRESSES
IN A VIRTUAL FIGHTER
PLAYOFF...

THAT...
UH...
SPIRITED
BOY IN THE
BACK (HAHA).

IT
WAS
ME!!



WHATTY?
WHY,
YAMADAY?

SHEN?
IF YOU
WIN
ROUND
2, I'LL
KILL
YOU!!



WIN THE
SECOND
ROUND
AND YOU'LL
GET A
GAME
GEAR!!

WIN
THE FIRST
ROUND,
YOU'LL
GET A PHONE
CARD WITH
OUR PICTURE
ON IT...



FOR A LITTLE
BIT OF MONEY,
YOU CAN BUY
A GAME GEAR
IN ANY STORE...!!

A TELEPHONE
CARD WITH THEIR
PICTURE ON IT
IS WAY BETTER
THAN A GAME
GEAR!! A RARE
COLLECTIBLE
LIKE THAT IS
WORTH MORE!



I CAN
GET IT FOR
FREE...?!

I CAN GET
A GAME GEAR
JUST BY
WINNING
A GAME!



HOW COULD
YAMADA SAY
SOMETHING LIKE
THAT TO A POOR
GUY LIKE ME...?!
THE NERVE OF
THAT GUY!!



I
CHOSE
KAGE.



"FOR A
LITTLE
BIT OF
MONEY,"
HUH?



MY
OPPONENT
CHOSE
SARAH.



HAVE
YOU EVER
PLAYED
VIRTUAL
FIGHTER
BEFORE?

NOPE.
NEVER.



I WAS
PERFECT

I WAS
BURNING
UP IN-
SIDE...





BUT STILL...

A WIN
IS A
WIN!!!!



I EXPECTED TO
BE BOOED AT,
BUT IT SEEMS
WAS IT HARDER
TO CONCENTRATE...



THROWING
ME OUTSIDE
THE RING, IS
WHAT
CONCENTRATES!

WHA...
WHAT WAS
THAT?



AND I'M GOING
TO COMPLETELY
ANNIHILATE
MY OPPONENT
AT THIS
GAME!!

I'M GOING
FULL STEAM
AHEAD FOR
THAT GAME
GEAR...!!



I'M SURE
YAMADA WAS
THINKING
'LOSE THE
NEXT ROUND!
I WANT THAT
TELEPHONE
CARD!!'

...THERE WAS
NO WAY I
WAS GOING
TO DO THAT!



WHA
OK



THE
CATAPULT KICK...
YOU WOULD THINK
DEFENDING ONESELF
AGAINST THIS TRICKY
MOVE WOULD BE
DIFFICULT...



BUT HER
SNEAKY
TRICKS
WOULDN'T
WORK
ON ME
AT ALL...

MY
OPPONENT
WAS THE
'CATCHY'
TYPE...



HOW
SHOULD I
KNOW...?
AFTER ALL,
I GOT A
"D" IN
JAPANESE.

"BOO"?
"BOO"...?
WHAT DOES
THAT WORD
MEAN?



**I CAN'T
STAND IT!**

THINGS ARE GOING
TO BE AWKWARD
BETWEEN YAMADA
AND ME IF I DON'T
LOSE...



HEY!!

DON'T
IGNORE
ME,
YAMADA!!



QUIT
ACTING
LIKE AN
IDIOT!



HEY...



MY
INTRUSIVE
MOM
USSES
STICKY TAPE
TO PICK UP
BITS OF
TRASH OFF
THE FLOOR.

STICK STICK

LIFT UP
THE PUTTON!
HOW AM I
SUPPOSED
TO DO THE
LAUNDRY
WITH IT
LIKE THIS?!



I CAN'T
RELAX WITH
THAT DAMN
AWFUL MUSIC
BLARING!!

WHA...
WHAT'S
THAT NOISE?!

STOP
PLAYING
THOSE
DAMN
VIDEO
GAMES!



THIS IS NOT
WHERE I AM
REALLY SUPPOSED
TO BE...



ALRIGHT!
ALRIGHT
ALREADY!
I FORGIVE
YOU, SO
GET UP
NOW!!

END



I HAVE TO
DO WHAT'S
RIGHT FOR
ME...

GAME SCHOOL BOY

PLAYING
MAKE-
BELIEVE
**SUPER
MARIO
BROS.**
BUT I
DOUBT
YOU
COULD
TELL...

HERE
WE
ARE...

WE GOT
RESTLESS
AND DECIDED
TO ACT OUT
THE GAME
INSTEAD OF
JUST PLAYING
IT.

EARLIER
IN THE DAY,
MY FRIEND
DONUKI AND
I WERE
PLAYING
**SUPER
MARIO
BROS...**

AND
SPARKED
IN OUR
ADVENTUR-
OUS SPIRITS
THE DESIRE
TO SEEK
OUT THESE
VILLAINS
FROM THE
GAME.

BOWSER
COULD BE
DOWN HERE...

WE'RE
IN THE
SEWERS...

**SUPER
MARIO
BROS.** HAD A
TREMEN-
DOUS
IMPACT
ON US.

NO,
JUST
A
TURTLE.

IS
THAT A
KOOPA
TROOP?

NO...
IT'S A
KOOPA
TROOP!



WOW!

WHEN WE PLAYED THESE CHARACTERS, WE WERE ABLE TO SURVIVE IN HIS GREAT COURAGE THAT, NORMALLY, WASN'T THERE.



LOOK IN THERE.

YEAH, BUT... LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.



I LEARNED MORE PLAYING GAMES THAN I DID IN CLASS OR ANYWHERE ELSE.



"SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE"

THEY EVEN TAUGHT ME THAT IF YOU ACT TOO IMPULSIVELY, YOU'LL WIND UP COVERED IN SLIME.



SHINY!

AAAAHHH!



AAAAHHH!



IS
HAVING
SEX?!

WHAT
THE..?!
THIS
CHARAC-
TER...



EVEN IN MY
SECOND YEAR
OF JUNIOR
HIGH SCHOOL,
GAMBS STILL
HAD AN ENOR-
MOUS IMPACT
ON ME.



TO
READING
ERECT!!

GONE
FROM
READING
WHILE
STANDING...

BEING
THE PERVERT
THAT I WAS,
I HAD UNCON-
SCIOUSLY...



DESPITE
MY ADOL-
ESCENCE
I WASN'T
ALL THAT
INTERESTED
IN ADULT
MOVIES.



BUT...

WAS
THERE
SUCH A
THING AS
EROTIC
GAMBS?!



IN
FACT,
I REM-
EMBER
BEING
GROSSED
OUT BY
THEM.

I NEVER
REALLY
EVER
FOUND
THEM
TO BE
REALISTIC
OR
EROTIC.



I WAS
SHOCKED,
AS UP UNTIL
NOW!

THE ONLY
CONCEPT
I HAD OF
EROTICA
WAS
SOMETHING
INVOLVING
ANIME
CHARACTERS.



THIS
CHARACTER?
I'D WELCOME
IMAGES OF
HER!!

COULDN'T
MY MIND
BE
PARDONED
FOR
THINKING
ABOUT...



MAKING ONE
OF THESE TWO
REAL AND THE
OTHER ONLY
TWO-
DIMENSIONAL?!

WOULDN'T
YOU
CHOOSE
HER?!!

IF YOU
HAD A
CHOICE
BETWEEN
THESE
TWO...

DON'T
YOU
THINK
IT WAS A
MISTAKE
ON GOD'S
PART...



ANYWAY
I COULD
TELL THESE
TWO-
DIMENSIONAL
CHARACTERS
ABOUT MY
SEXUAL
FANTASIES
OF THEM?

WAS
THERE
ANY
WAY?



TO REAL-
IZE MY
FANTASIES.

A
A
H
H
H
H
!!

I KNEW
THERE
WAS NO-
THING
I COULD
DO...

I MADE
SOUNDS
LIKE
THIS OFTEN...



OF COURSE
AT THIS POINT
IN MY LIFE,
I THOUGHT
ABOUT IT ALL
THE TIME...
IT WAS
ROUGH.



ONLY
TWO-
DIMEN-
SIONAL...

AND
BECAUSE
THE
FEMALES
WHO
TEMPTED
ME AND
WERE
RUNNING
THROUGH
MY MIND
WERE...



THE SNES SEEMS SO LIMITED TO ME NOW...

THE PC WORLD WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE SUPER NINTENDO WORLD, AND THERE WERE TONS OF THINGS ABOUT THAT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.



I HAD NO IDEA AND BESIDES... IT WAS SO EXPENSIVE!!

BUT HOW IN THE WORLD DO YOU GET THE PC TO PLAY THE X-RATED GAMES?!



YOU COULD PLAY X-RATED GAMES.

I KNEW THAT ON THE PC-98...



WHAA?!



I JUST BOUGHT WINDOWS '95... I'LL GIVE YOU A PC-98!



3.5-INCH FLOPPY DISK

I'VE GOT 9 OF THESE BLACK FLOPPY THINGS...

BUT IT RAN SLOWLY ON THE PC.

I WAS GIVEN AN X-RATED GAME CALLED CLASS-MATES...



DO I HAVE TO INSERT A NEW DISK FOR EACH STAGE...?



YAMADA..!! THANK YOU, SIR!!

I KNEELED BEFORE THEE..!!

I DON'T BELIEVE MY BARS! YOU'RE GIVING ME A PC-98, YAMADA?!



WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE? YOU'D BETTER NOT BE PLAYING ONE OF THOSE X-RATED GAMES!!



"SLAM"

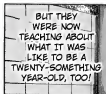
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME...



BUT BECAUSE IT WOULD BE RATHER RUDE AND PERSONAL TO SHARE MY ENCOUNTER WITH YOU...



MY FANTASY OF HAVING A PRIVATE MOMENT WITH GAMES CHARACTER-GAME TRUE!



BUT THEY WERE NOW TEACHING ABOUT WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE A TWENTY-SOMETHING YEAR-OLD, TOO!



GAMES WERE TEACHING ME BRAVERY AND LIFE LESSONS...



...UNTIL I DISCOVERED THIS GAME.

THIS GAME IS...



THIS...

I THOUGHT THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT THAT GAMES COULD TEACH ME, UNTIL...



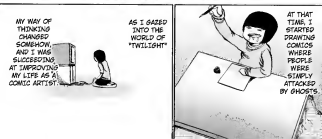
AND INVESTIGATE 44 SCARY RUMORS THEY'VE HEARD!

IT'S ABOUT 8 KIDS IN THEIR 2ND YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH WHO TAKE THEIR DOGS OUT FOR A WALK.



IT'S RATHER HARD TO FIND NOWADAYS... IF YOU CAN FIND IT IN A USED GAME STORE, IT'S LIKE FINDING AN ARTIFACT.

IT WAS CALLED TWILIGHT STREET SEARCH AND IT WAS A PSYCHO-DRAMA ADVENTURE GAME MADE FOR PLAYSTATION.





I SEE
THE TERM
"GOD GAME"
BEING USED
A LOT ON THE
INTERNET, BUT
**THIS IS MY
GOD GAME.**

AND BY
INFLUENCE
I MEAN...

EVEN
AS I
MATURED,
GAMES
CONTINUED
TO HAVE
A PROFOUND
INFLUENCE
ON MY LIFE.



THAT'S MY
ULTIMATE
WISH...

I REALLY
WISH THEY'D
MAKE A NEW
**TWILIGHT
STREET**
GAME OR A
REMAKE OF
THE OLD ONE.

GAMES
GIVE ME
MOTIVATION,
BUT...



ALL
ALONE...
BY
MYSELF...

FOR NOW,
I'LL JUST
KEEP PLAYING
**TWILIGHT
STREET.**
SEARCH
BY MYSELF,
AND NO ONE
WILL KNOW
OR CARE...

END

HOT-TEMPERED

OUTRAGED BY EVEN THE SLIGHTEST
INCONVENIENCE

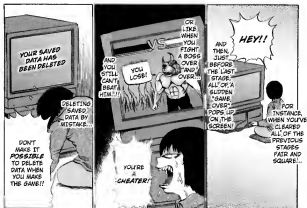
NOTHING IN
MY LIFE HAS
EVER MADE
METAS
HOT-TEMPERED
AS... YOU
GUESSED
IT...
GAMES!

**YOU
LOSE!!**

**AHH!!
DAMN IT!!**

HOT-TEMPERED BOY











AND THEY DON'T STOP AT SIBLINGS... THEY WRECK FRIENDSHIPS AS WELL.

GAMES... GAMES DESTROY HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS...



THEY'VE EVEN CAUSED MY BROTHER AND I TO START FIGHTING...

GAMES REALLY CHANGE PEOPLE...



BWAHAHAHA

I'LL NEVER FORGET THE WINTER OF MY FRESHMAN YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL...



BWAHAHA... I'VE HAD A LOT OF PRACTICE, YOU KNOW?

KARL, MAN... YOU BEAT US EVERY SINGLE TIME!!



GOONKI SUCKS... I COULD BEAT HIM WITH ONE ARM TIED AROUND MY BACK.



ME VS. GOONKI



OUT OF ALL OF MY FRIENDS, ONLY ONE KID WAS VISIBLY ANNOYED BY MY WINNING STREAK...



WOW, SHIT...! YOU'RE UP TO TWENTY WINS IN A ROW NOW?

DOFT!!

KU-PAH!!

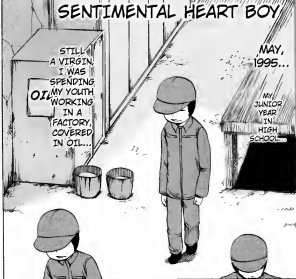






END

SENTIMENTAL HEART BOY





AND NOW I LIVED WITH REGRET EVERY SINGLE DAY.

I AT LEAST WANTED TO GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS HER AND BE NEAR HER...



THINGS LOOK GREAT OVER THERE... I JUST LOOK THE SAME AS ALWAYS.

HIROYUKI-CHAN...



HIROYUKI-CHAN WAS THE NAME OF THE MAIN CHARACTER.

To Heart

TO HEART IS A GAME THAT WAS RELEASED ON MAY 23, 1997.



AND IT WAS FULL OF LOVE AND BROKEN PROMISES BETWEEN OLDER AND YOUNGER CHARACTERS.



TO HEART WAS A GAME WHICH DEPICTED HIGH SCHOOLERS' ROMANTIC ENCOUNTERS...



I WAS IN LOVE WITH HIROYUKI-CHAN, WHO WAS SURROUNDED BY PERFECT CHARACTERS, AND I BURNED WITH JEALOUSY.

I... I WISH I COULD BE YOU...!!



I'M IN LOVE WITH ALL OF YOUR WONDERFUL QUALITIES..!

HIROYUKI-CHAN... YOU REALLY ARE AN INCREDIBLE GIRL...





EVEN
THOUGH IT'S
TECHNICALLY
AN EROTIC
GAME, ONE
OF THE
THINGS I
LIKE ABOUT
IT IS THAT
IT DOESN'T
HAVE TO RELY
ON THE
EROTICISM.



AHH...
THIS IS
SUCH A
GREAT GAME
FOR YOUTH.



AND THE WAY
THE PROCESS
OF CRUSH
TO FULL-BLOWN
LOVE UNFOLDS
IS AMAZING!

IT FEELS
JUST LIKE A
LONG-DISTANCE
RELATIONSHIP...



AAAAHHH!!!

I'D USE
IT AS AN
EXCUSE
TO LOPE
OFF THE
GUY'S
MEMBER.
NO
MATTER
WHAT MY
DAUGHTER
SAID!



IF I WAS
THOSE
GIRLS'
FATHER,
I'D BE
OUTRAGED!

I
COULDN'T
STAND
THOSE
GUYS IN
THE EROTIC
GAMES WHO
CHEATED
ON GIRLS
LEFT AND
RIGHT.



I WOULD
SIMPLY
WANT TO
HELP, POOR
HIROYUKI-
CHAN.

BUT WITH
HIROYUKI-CHAN
IT WOULD BE
DIFFERENT...



THE OTHER FEMALE
CHARACTERS IN
THE GAME WERE
GREAT TOO.

I WANTED TO
PRAISE THEIR
PARENTS FOR
RAISING SUCH
WONDERFUL
GIRLS.



I DON'T
FEEL CONFIDENT
THAT I WOULD.

IF I WERE
TO BECOME A
FATHER, I WONDER
IF I'D BE ABLE
TO RAISE SUCH
FINE GIRLS.



IS
THAT
RIGHT...?

IT'S
INFLUENCING
THE WAY I
LIVE MY
LIFE!!

IS
AMAZING!
...TOO
AMAZING!

SO YOU
SEE, YAMADA...
THAT GAVE YOU
SHOCKED ME,
TO HEART...



YAMADA...
YOU TOO
HAVE BEEN
INFLUENCED
BY TO HEART.
I SEE...

OH...
THAT'S MY
GIRLFRIEND.

BY THE WAY,
WHO'S THIS
GIRL?

RUMBLE
RUMBLE

CRACK

SOB...

BUT ACTUALLY,
I LOOK DAYS
LIKE THIS.

HOW!
THE THUNDER'S
REALLY LOUD
TONIGHT, ISN'T
IT?

SOB...

OH...

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?!

SOB...

SOB...

HEH..?
WHY..?
WHY IS
THIS GIRL
CRYING?

UH-
HEH...

REALLY?

SEEMS SHE'S
SCARED OF
THUNDER...
THAT'S WHY
SHE'S CRYING.

HEY!
WHAT
DID SHE
SAY..?!
WHY'S SHE
CRYING?!

THE AMUSEMENT
MACHINE SHOW
AUDITORIUM
AT DAWN...

BUT HERE
WAS THE
FRUIT OF
OUR LABOR...

WAS AN EVENT
WHERE THEY HELD
DEMONSTRATIONS
OF THE LATEST
ARCADE GAMES
AND MACHINES.

THE
AM
SHOW...

AND HE
INVITED
ME TO WAIT
IN LINE
WITH HIM
THAT NIGHT.

MY FRIEND
NAKAMURA
HEARD THAT
THERE WOULD
BE A NEW GAME
CALLED **SENTIMENTAL
GRAFFITI** AT THIS
EVENT.

DON'T
IT BOTHER
YOU HAVING
GAMES LIKE
THE HEROIN
IN SOME
K-SHOTS
GAMES?

THERE ARE
HUNDREDS
OF PEOPLE
HERE..!

BUT THIS
LINE IS
INSANE!!

NAK'S NOT
BAD, HEH..?

NAKAMURA,
WHO DO YOU
LIKE FROM
**SENTIMENTAL
GRAFFITI**?

I BET MOST
OF THEM ARE
HERE FOR
**SENTIMENTAL
GRAFFITI**.

ARE THESE
PEOPLE FANS
OF GAMES IN GENERAL..?

THIS GUY'S
ACTUALLY
IN LOVE
WITH HER..!



NOT ONLY THAT...
BUT THEY SEEMED
HAPPY TO BE
THERE! I REMEMBER
THE GLEAM IN THEIR
EYES...

I REMEMBER BEING
SO IMPRESSED BY
THOSE PEOPLE'S
ENTHUSIASM FOR
GAMES...
THEY WERE WILLING
TO WAIT OUTSIDE
ALL NIGHT IN
THE FREEZING COLD
JUST FOR THE SAKE
OF GAMES!



WHAT A NICE
ATMOSPHERE!



THE GUYS
THERE ALL
SCRAMBLED
TO GET
THEIR OWN
POSTER...

EVEN
WITH
THAT
MANY
PEOPLE
THERE...
I
STILL
GOT
MY
HANDS
ON A
SENTI-
MENTAL
GRAFFITI
POSTER!



WOW!!
YOU DID
IT!!
YOU GOT
A POSTER OF NANA!



YOU'RE
GONNA
GIVE ME
ONE,
AREN'T
YOU?

NAKAMURA...
I GOT 2
POSTERS!



EVERYONE
THESE
WAS FULL
OF LOVE.

EVERYBODY
WAS IN
LOVE THESE
HUMAN
CHARACTERS!



MORE
LOVE.



LOVE



THESE
SHOULDN'T
BE ANY
DIV-LINE
BETWEEN
YOU TWO.
YOU BOTH
LOVE
NANA.

JEE...
WHY SO
GOLD
ALL OF A
SUDDEN?

I WAS
JUST
THINKING
TO MY-
SELF...
"ISN'T
NANA
LOVELY?"

WELL, BACK
OFF!
DON'T STARE!



WHAT DO
YOU WANT?

HEH?



LOOK
OVER
THERE...



THAT'S
WHY WE
ONLY
LOVE
2-D
GIRLS!

WE HAD
TO HAVE
BEEN 2-D
CHARACTERS
IN A
PREVIOUS
LIFE.

YEAH,
MAYBE!

OUR
LOVE
COULD
NOT BE
MEASURED.



REALITY
WAS HARSH
ON US...

THEY'RE
SOOOO
ANNOYING!!



LOOK!
IT'S
PORKS!!
EWWW!!

GROSS!!!



BUT WE
WERE
USED
TO IT.



TO US,
IT WAS
PROOF
THAT LOVE
AT LEAST
EXISTED.

IT DIDN'T
MATTER WHAT
KIND OF LOVE
IT WAS, THAT
WE HAD FOR
THOSE 2-D
CHARACTERS...

END

SECRET CASTLE BOY

SPRING.
WE 5TH
GRADERS
ARE
STARTING
TO GROW
BORED OF
THE SUPER
NINTENDO.



ME, NUCHI, AND HARIMA
WERE BUILDING SECRET
FORTS OUT OF OLD
DESKS AND SCRAP WOOD WE'D
PICKED UP. WE WERE GOING
MENTAL OVER IT!!





NO YEAH,
SHEN-CHAN,
YOU'VE GOT
A LOT TO
LEARN.

MIKE'S THE
BEST, DON'T
YOU THINK?
THERE'S SO
MUCH SPACE.
IT'S SO
COMFORTABLE.



IF ANYONE
CLIMBED ON
YOUR FORT,
IT'D CRUMBLE
UNDERNEATH
THEM!

LOOK HOW
STURDY AND
WELL-BUILT
MY FORT IS
COMPARED
TO YOURS...



MIKE'S GOT
A HOT TEMPER.
IT'D BETTER
AGREE WITH
HEM OR HE'LL
LOSE IT.

AH...
I SEE WHAT
YOU MEAN.
YOUR DOGS
SEEM PRETTY
STRONG.



THE
MATERIALS
WEREN'T
THAT GREAT,
AFTER ALL.

WELL, EVEN
THOUGH YOU
CAN BARELY
EVEN FIT
YOUR ASS
INSIDE OF
IT...
SOMEHOW
YOUR
PERSONALITY
SHINES
THROUGH.

WELL,
ANYWAY,
MIKAMI...
YOU'VE LOOKS
PRETTY
SHABBY.



HARIMA...
WHAT THE
HECK IS
THAT?

HW...?



GAMEBOY
MODEL 101
CONTAINS
RELEASED
BY NINTENDO
IN 1989.

PRICE: 498,000



WHAT'S
A
GAMEBOY...?

WHOA!!
THAT'S A
GAMEBOY,
ISN'T
IT?!



AT THAT TIME, THE
GAMEBOY APPEARED
TO BE BUILT WELL
AND STURDY. IT
WAS AN ATTRACTIVE
MACHINE TO USE.



AT THAT
TIME, IF
YOU [SAID]
MOBILE
GAME, YOU
WERE
TALKING
ABOUT GAME
AND WATCH
WHEN THE
GAMEBOY
CAME OUT,
THOUGH, IT
BLEW MY
MIND!



SUPER
MARIO
LAND...

I HAD
NO IDEA
SUCH A
THING
EXISTED!!

WHAT
GAME?!!
WHAT
GAMES
ARE YOU
ABLE TO
PLAY ON
IT?!

NO WAY!!
YOU CAN PLAY
MARIO
ON A MACHINE
THAT SMALL?!!





EITHER WAY, YOU'RE STILL PLAYING VIDEO GAMES!!

BUT IF I HAD ONE, I WOULDN'T BE PLAYING VIDEO GAMES ON THE T.V. ANYMORE!



I TRIED AND TRIED AND TRIED AND TRIED...



THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID WHEN YOU WANTED A DOG, TOO...

I'LL NEVER ASK YOU FOR ANOTHER THING AS LONG AS I LIVE!

NO!
NO!
NO!!



THOUGH I WAS ONLY A 5TH GRADER, I FELT DEFEATED BY MY AGE...

AND THE THOUGHT OF HAVING TO GO ON LIVING WITHOUT A GAMEROY KILLED ME.

THE OLDER YOU GET, THE LESS EFFECTIVE BEGGING BECOMES...



NO...

SHE COULDN'T HAVE... SHE WOULDN'T...

HUH..? WHAT THE..? I CAN'T FIND THE NES ADAPTER!

NOTHING TO DO I GUESS BUT PLAY KONAMI'S WIDE WIDE WORLD OR SOMETHING...



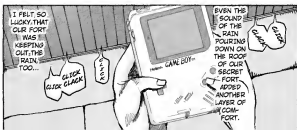
THE ADAPTER IS MINE, NOW...!!

YOU'D BETTER STUDY... OR YOU'LL NEVER PLAY YOUR PRECIOUS GAMES AGAIN!

THAT'S THE COOLEST "INCULCATIVE" I'VE EVER HEARD OF!

SINCE ALL YOU EVER DO IS PLAY VIDEO GAMES AND NEVER STUDY... I'LL GIVE YOU AN INCENTIVE TO STUDY!!







EVEN HARIMA
LOOKS
COMFORTABLE
IN THE FORT
THAT I BUILT...



THE JUICE AND
SNACKS I HAVE
BOUGHT EARLIER
KEPT US HAPPY
AS WELL.



I'M NOT SURE
I'LL EVER
FIND THAT
KIND OF
HAPPINESS
EVER AGAIN...

PLAYING THE MOST
CUTTING-EDGE
PIECE OF GAMING
EQUIPMENT IN THE
BEST FORT, WITH MY
BEST FRIEND...



FROM AFTER
THE BIRTHDAY
OF MY BROTHER
AND
THE BIRTHDAY
OF MY BROTHER
AND MY BROTHER
AND MY BROTHER



BUT EVENTUALLY
IT'LL BECOME HARD
TO SEE BECAUSE
OF THE SHADOWS
THE LIGHTBOY
CREATES.



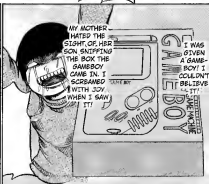
SHE HAD NO IDEA
WHERE I WAS
GOING OR WHAT
I WAS DOING.
BUT FOR MY
BIRTHDAY...



WHERE HAVE
YOU BEEN
ALL NIGHT?!



ONE
OF THE
GAMES
I PICKED
OUT FOR
THE GAME-
BOY WAS



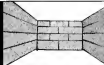
MY MOTHER
HATED THE
SIGHT OF HER
SON SNIPPING
THE BOX THE
GAMEBOY
CAME IN. I
SCREAMED
WITH JOY
WHEN I SAW
IT!

I WAS
GIVEN
A GAME-
BOY! I
COULDN'T
BELIEVE
IT!

GAME
BOY
CONTROLLER
GAME BOY
CONTROLLER

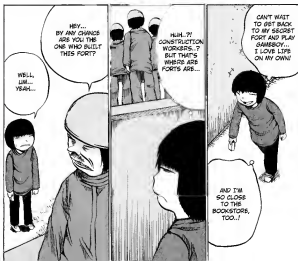


THE GAME WAS
SO INCREDIBLY
DIFFICULT, THAT
I WOULD OFTEN HAVE
TO GO TO BOOKSTORES
TO LOOK THROUGH
STRATEGY PLAYING
GUIDES.



IN THE GAME,
YOU PLAY A KIDNA
TRAPPED IN A CASTLE
AND YOU TRAVEL
THROUGH BUNGIONS
BATTLING MONSTERS.

MF 80



HEY...
BY ANY CHANCE
ARE YOU THE
ONE WHO BUILT
THIS FORT?

WELL...
YEAH...

HUH??
CONSTRUCTION
WORKERS...?
BUT THAT'S
WHERE ARE
FORTS ARE...

CAN'T WAIT
TO GET BACK
TO MY SECRET
FORT AND PLAY
GAMEBOY...
I LOVE LIFE
ON MY OWN!

AND I'M
SO CLOSE
TO THE
BOOKSTORE,
TOO...!



...YES,
SIR.

CLEAR THOSE
OUT OF THE
WAY FOR US,
WOULD YAT?

IT'S GONNA
BE DIFFICULT
FOR US TO
WORK ON
THIS DITCH
WITH THOSE
PORTS THERE.



YOU
COULD
BE A
LITTLE
NICER
ABOUT
IT...

JEEZ...
WHAT WERE
YOU THINKING?!
MAKING A
MOUNTAIN OF
TRASH HERE
OF ALL PLACES..!



AND OF COURSE
NOW THEY COME...
OF ALL THE TIMES THEY
COULD'VE CHOSEN
TO DO CONSTRUCTION..!

GUESS I HAVE
NO CHOICE...

WE CHOSE TO BUILD
OUR SECRET PORTS
HERE ALONG THE
RIVER DITCH
BECAUSE NO ONE
EVER COMES HERE...



I'M REALLY
SORRY GUYS,
BUT THE MAN
SAID WE HAVE
TO CLEAN UP
AND CLEAR IT
ALL AWAY...

AND
SO...





EVEN FROM THE BEGINNING NUCHI WASN'T REALLY INTO FORT-MAKING. HE NEVER EVEN WENT INTO HIS FORT ONCE.



NUCHI'S FORT CAME DOWN RIGHT AWAY WITH-OUT MUCH DIFFICULTY.

AND TO THINK HE BRAGGED ABOUT HOW STRONG HIS FORT WAS...!!



AND, ALL THE WHILE WE CURSED NUCHI, WHO HAD GONE OUT TO BAT KONOKE-YAKI WITH HIS MOTHER...

EVENTUALLY HARIMA AND I TORE DOWN ALL THREE FORTS



IS NOW LOST.

SIGH...
WHAT WAS ONCE A HAVEN...
A PARADISE...



I THOUGHT ABOUT HOW STUPID IT WAS THAT THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE THREE OF US HAD BEEN RUPTURED OVER SOMETHING SO TRIVIAL...



I DIDN'T WANT IT TO END.

I WANTED TO KEEP HAVING FUN PLAYING GAME-BOY IN MY SECRET CASTLE.



THEN I THOUGHT OF AN ADAGE MY MOTHER ALWAYS SAID: "WHENEVER SOMETHING IS GAINED, SOMETHING IS LOST."

I THINK I GET IT NOW.

NUCHI, PROBABLY
FELT A BIT ALIENATED
FROM HARIMA AND I,
SINCE HE AND I
WOULD ALWAYS USE
THE CONNECTOR
CABLE AND PLAY
2-PLAYER GAMES
TOGETHER.

AND SINCE
NUCHI
DIDN'T HAVE
ONE, HE
MUST HAVE
FELT
RESENT-
MENT
TOWARD
US.

YEAH...
ALTHOUGH...
HARIMA AND
ME PRETTY
MUCH DIDN'T
DO ANYTHING
HERE BUT
PLAY
GAMEBOY.





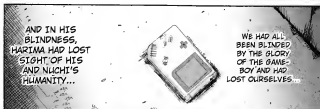
HARIMA GRABBED NUCHI'S NECK AND BEGAN CHOKING HIM, AND THEN HE TRIED TO THROW NUCHI HIMSELF DOWN THE DITCH!

HARIMA BECAME SO ENRAGED THAT NOTHING COULD SNAP HIM OUT OF IT EVEN IF NUCHI HAD OFFERED TO BUY HIM A NEW GAME BOY!!!

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT I TERRIFIED ME...



NUCHI GREW TIRED AND EVENTUALLY ADMITTED THAT HE HAD FELT ALIENATED BY THE FACT THAT HE WAS THE ONLY ONE OF US WITHOUT A GAMEBOY.



AND IN HIS BLINDNESS, HARIMA HAD LOST SIGHT OF HIS AND NUCHI'S HUMANITY...

WE HAD ALL BEEN BLINDED BY THE GLORY OF THE GAMEBOY AND HAD LOST OURSELVES...



WOW!!

IT STILL WORKS!

INCIDENTALLY, THE GAMEBOY WE DROPPED SUFFERED NO DAMAGE.

AFTER THAT, THE THREE OF US PARTED WAYS AND WERE NEVER FRIENDS AGAIN.

END

BZZZZZ

BZZZZZ

I NEEDED
TO CONSTANTLY
BE SUCKING IN
THE NECTAR OF
GAMES OR ELSE
I MIGHT DIE...!



HERE
I'AM
A LITTLE
BRATTY,
CHEESEHEAD
VERSION

PICO-PICO BOY

← GAMES
SCHOOL →

VIDEO
GAMES WERE
MY SPIRITUAL
SUPPORT. IT
WOULDN'T BE
AN EXAGGERATION
TO SAY THAT
I WOULD'VE
GIVEN UP
EVERYTHING,
INCLUDING
SCHOOL, JUST
FOR GAMES.



WE
WAS
A LITTLE
BROOD-LOUT
TO

THIS
MUSIC...

PICO
PICO
WENT THE
SOUNDS
OF MY
VIDEO
GAMES AS
I PLAYED
THEM CON-
TINUOUSLY
FOR HOURS
(AND
HOURS)

S
L
A
P

MY
MOTHER
COULDN'T
STAND
IT.

...IS
GOING
TO
MAKE
ME
CRAZY!!

BZZZ

BZZZ



THERE
WERE MANY
OBSTACLES
ON THE
ROAD I
CHOOSE!!

HSH
HSH
HSH
HSH



SHUT
UP!!

THAT'S
BECAUSE
ALL HE
DOES IS
STAY AT
HOME AND
PLAY
VIDEO
GAMES.

WOW, KAN...
YOU REALLY
HAVE NO
ATHLETIC
ABILITY!



I BELIEVED
THAT THIS
SKILL WOULD
PROVE USE-
FUL IN MY
REAL LIFE
AT SOME
POINT.

WHICH
IS TO SAY
THAT I HAD
BECOME AN
EXPERT ON
REVENGE!!

IT WAS TRUE
THAT I HAD
ABSOLUTELY
NO ATHLETIC
ABILITY.
BUT...

BUT I HAD
BECOME
A HUNDRED
THOUSAND
BETTER...
AT
GRABTUS
AND
TETRIS.



HOW-
EVER...



IT DIDN'T
SEEM TO BE
DOING ME
ANY GOOD
IN MY SCHOOL
LIFE OR MY
PERSONAL
LIFE.

I WAS
BEING
HUMILIATED
BY THE
FACT THAT
I DIDN'T
KNOW HOW
TO RECAL-
SATE...



THERE ARE
THE KINDS OF
PEOPLE YOU
THINK OF
GENERALLY
WHEN YOU THINK
OF PEOPLE WHO
HAVE STRAYED
FROM THE
KOROL...



BUT THIS
IS HOW I
STRAYED
FROM THE
PATH...



I
SLIKED...

I'M ALWAYS
ON THE
OUTSIDE...

I KNEW
THAT THE
PATH I
HAD CHOSEN
WAS THE
RIGHT ONE...
THAT THERE
WAS MEANING
BEHIND
IT...

I THREW
MY STUDIES
INTO THE
WIND...



I HAD
A VERY
FUN
YOUTH.

FUN.



THAT
FEELING
OF EXCIT-
MENT THE
FIRST
TIME I
ENTERED
THE
GAME
CENTER...



THAT
FEELING
OF BEING
CRUSHED
WHEN MY
MOM WOULD
TAKE AWAY
MY ADAPTER
FOR PLAY-
ING TOO
MUCH...

I WOULD
LAY MY
COINS OUT
ON THE
**STREET
FIGHTER
II**
MACHINE
AND GRAB
THEM AS
I NEEDED
THEM.



THE
COIN
GAME
WAS
FUN
FOR
HOURS
AND
HOURS.



AND I
REMEMBER
WHEN
**STREET
FIGHTER
II**
CAME OUT
ON SNES...



BUT
MY MOM
WOULDN'T
BUY ME
SNES.

BEING
ABLE TO
PLAY **STREET
FIGHTER
II** AT
HOM...

AA-
OOH-
KING!



MY
QUEST
FOR THE
PC
ENGINE...



I SOLD
SOME
GAMES...

\$6.50

AND
REMEMBER
THE
CRUSHING
BLOW OF
BEING
TOLD
THAT I
COULD
ONLY GET
4.50 FOR
THEM.

WE
BUY
GAMES!





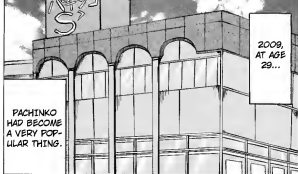
*SCREEN: ART OF FIGHTING







BECOMING
AN
ADULT



2009,
AT AGE
29...

PACHINKO
HAD BECOME
A VERY POP-
ULAR THING.



THE ARMS
AND GADGETS
SURPRISE ME
WHEN THEY
MOVE! IT'S
SO SMOOTH!

THE GASTS
AND PICTURES
QUALITY
HAD BECOME
SO MUCH MORE
ADVANCED...



IT'S SO
MUCH FUN!!



CLUNK THUNK

IT'S
NICE
OUT
TODAY...

PACHINKO'S
A DANGEROUS
GAME...
WHEN YOU
LOSE, YOU
LOSE BIG...
(HH)

...BUT I
LOST.

MAYBE
I'LL GO
VISIT MY
HOMETOWN
SINCE I'VE
GOT SOME
FREE TIME.

WHOOSH



LOOKING
AT MY
HOMETOWN
FROM AN
ADULT
PERS-
PECTIVE...

THINGS
LOOK
DIFFERENT.
IT'S INTER-
ESTING.



THE ONLY
THINGS KIDS
TODAY PLAY
ON ARE PSP
AND DS...

I PLAY
ON THOSE,
TOO, BUT...



BACK IN THE
GAMEBOY DAYS,
I WAS AMAZED
THAT MOBILE
GAME TECH-
NOLOGY HAD
COME AS FAR
AS IT HAD...



AHH...
SO MANY
MEMORIES...

THOSE
DAYS WHEN
I WAS JUST
A LITTLE
SHITHEAD...
I HAD NO
FRIENDS AND
NO ENEMIES.



GAME
CORPORATIONS...
HOW THEY
LOVE TO TOY
WITH US?
WHEN WILL
THEY BE
SATISFIED
TORTURING
US ENOUGH?



MAYBE
SOMETHING
LIKE
THIS..?



WHO KNOWS
WHAT KIND OF
MOBILE GAME
DEVICE THEY'LL
COME OUT WITH
NEXT..?
I CAN'T
IMAGINE...



STILL
HASN'T
CHANGED
SINCE
THEN...

OH...
HERE'S
WHERE THE
OLD GAME
CENTER USED
TO BE BEFORE
IT GOT TURNED
INTO A BUNCH
OF COIN GAMES...



BUT AS FAR
AS THEIR
QUALITY...
I CAN'T
COMPLAIN

BUT COIN
GAMES ARE
SUCH A
WASTE OF
MONEY...



WHEN I WAS
YOUNGER,
COIN GAMES
NEVER JUMPED
OUT AT ME
THE WAY THEY
DO NOW...

IT REALLY
IS AMAZING
HOW FAR
GAMES HAVE
COME...









HAS
SURVIVED
ALL OF
THESE
YEARS
AND HAS
EVEN
BEEN
REFURB-
ISHED!!

THE OLD
STATIONARY
& CANDY
SHOPPE/
GAME
CENTER I
USED TO
GO TO
18 YEARS
AGO...



I WONDER IF
THE OWNER IS
HOLDING ONTO
THESE MACHINES
FOR THE SAKE OF
NOSTALGIA...

WOW...
I REMEMBER
THESE OLD
ORANGE
MACHINES!



THAT OLD
FEELING
OF EXCIT-
EMENT
COMING
BACK
AGAIN!!

IN ME I
FELT...



BUT NOT ME...
THANK YOU
FOR REMINDING
ME.

I'M SURE
A LOT OF
ADULTS
WOULD BE
ASHAMED
TO ADMIT
THEY CAME
HERE AS KIDS
TO PLAY
GAMES...

THIS HAS
REMINDED
ME WHAT
IT WAS
LIKE TO
BE A
KID.

I'M
GLAD
I
CAME
HERE
TODAY.



AS LONG AS
THERE ARE
GAMES...

EVEN IF I'M
SO...

EVEN
IF I'M
SO...



END

WANTED



¥Priceless



GO AHEAD!



WELL, I DON'T KNOW... I'VE BEEN REALLY BUSY LATELY AND HAVEN'T BEEN PLAYING GAMES MUCH, SO...

YOU WANT TO DO A PICO-PICO BOY SIDE STORY FOR A COMPILATION MANGA?

HUH...?



OKAY... I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN COME UP WITH.

THEN AGAIN, I DO HAVE THE PS3, X-BOX 360, AND WII, SO MAYBE I CAN PUT SOMETHING TOGETHER SOMEHOW.



THIS WAS REALLY GOOD..!

LET'S SEE, WHAT HAVE I PLAYED RECENTLY...? YAKUZA: KENZAN!



BIG SCREEN TV

WII

WII CHAIR

THE FOOD THAT SHOWS UP IN THIS GAME LOOKS SOOO GOOD!

EVERYTIME I WALK INTO THIS RESTAURANT IN THE GAME, I GET HUNGRY IMMEDIATELY.

ピコ少年
SIDE STORY



*KNOWN AS RESIDENT EVIL IN THE US





THE
DEMON
BLADE
FOR
WTL



THAT WAS
THE BEST
GAVE IN
THE SERIES
AS FAR AS
QUALITY
GOES...

BUT I
REALLY
MUST
TAKE MY
HAT OFF
TO...



EVEN
THOUGH THE
GRAPHICS
GREAT AND
THE MUSIC
INCREDIBLE...

IT REMINDED
ME A LOT OF
LEGEND OF
SHADOW
FOR NES...
YOU COULD
JUMP FROM
TREE TO TREE,
AND THE SCREEN
SCROLLED
SIDWAYS.



XBOX 360

USED

LEFT 4 DEAD



THE
HAND
IS
HOLD
ING
UP
4
FING-
ERS

AND HOW
COULD I
FORGET
LEFT 4 DEAD
FOR X-BOX
360..?!



SNORE...

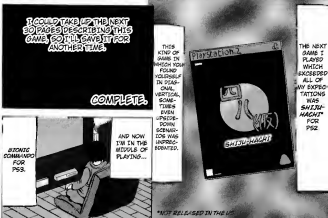
IT WAS
A GAME
THAT I
FELL
ASLEEP
PLAYING
ON MANY
OCCAS-
IONS.



AS
LOUD
AS I
COULD

THIS
IS THE
GAME
I'VE BEEN
WAITING
FOR!!

I
WANTED
TO
YELL



A diagram of the water cycle. It shows a sun in the upper right corner. An arrow labeled 'EVAPORATION' points from a body of water labeled 'WATER' up to a cloud. An arrow labeled 'CONDENSATION' points from the cloud down to a cloud. An arrow labeled 'PRECIPITATION' points from the cloud down to a body of water. An arrow labeled 'RUNOFF' points from the body of water back to the sun.

IT'S HARDER THAN IT LOOKS.

THE MAIN FEATURE OF THIS GAME IS THAT IT IS A SWINGING ACTION GAME, BUT...

IT'S
HARDER
FOR
THAN
IT
LOOKS



...I USED TO YELL RIGHT ALONG WITH THE MAJOR CHARACTER SPEAKER.

YAWOO!!

NOOAY!!

STILL, THERE AREN'T MANY GAMES THAT LET YOU SWING AROUND IN THE AIR LIKE THIS...

STILL, THERE
AREN'T MANY
GAMES THAT
LET YOU
SWING AROUND
IN THE AIR
LIKE THIS...

1004Y

2002

100

AND I'M
GOING TO
GRIND
GEARS 2
INTO THE
GROUND

END

HE
HE
HE
HE
HE
HE

I BEAT
THAT GAME
AND NOW I
WAS READY
FOR THE
GAME I
HAD BEEN
WAITING
TO PLAY...
GEARS 2!

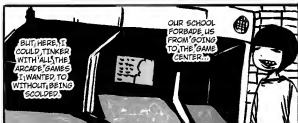
AFTERWORD

IN THE
BACK OF
THE NEIGH-
BORHOOD
PLASTIC
MODEL'S
STORE,
THERE
WAS A
MINI-GAME
CORNER...



BUT, HERE, I
COULD TINKER
WITH ALL THE
ARCADE GAMES
I WANTED TO
WITHOUT BEING
SCOLDED.

OUR SCHOOL
FORBADE US
FROM GOING
TO THE GAME
CENTER...



DUE TO POWER
BROWNOUTS,
THERE WASN'T
ANY LIGHT IN
THE BACK OF
THE STORE,
EXCEPT FOR THE
BIT OF LIGHT
THAT TRICKLED
IN FROM THE
FRONT OF THE
STORE. I WAS
HESITANT TO
GO IN BACK THE
FIRST TIME.

THE VERY
FIRST TIME
I SAW THE
GAME CORNER
IN THE BACK
OF THAT
STORE, I
KNEW, RIGHT
AWAY, THAT
I HAD FOUND
MY SPECIAL
PLACE.

YOU WERE
SURROUNDED
BY BOXES AND
BOXES OF
PLASTIC
MODELS.

IT WAS
A RATHER
CHAOTIC
ENVIRONMENT
THERE IN
THAT STORE.

SOME OF
THE FEAR
STILL
LINGERED,
BUT...

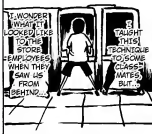
BUT, ONCE
I WAS BACK
THERE, I
NEVER
WANTED
TO LEAVE
AGAIN.

AND EVEN
WHEN YOU
SAT, IT
WAS HARD
TO PLAY
AND WAS
UNCOMF-
ORTABLE.

THERE
WERE
ONLY
TWO OR THREE
CHAIRS IN THAT
GAME
CORNER...

THE
FIRST
GAME I
PLAYED
THERE
WAS
SPLATTER
HOUSE.

BUT THE
GAMES
HELPED
DRIVE
THE FEAR
OUT OF
ME.





WHACK!

SHUT
UP!

AHH!!



BUT
THAT
PLACE
ISN'T A
GAME
CENTER!

IT'S A
PLASTIC
MODEL
STORE!



I HAD A
FEELING
SHE LET
US OUT
OF THERE
TOO
EASILY...
THE
OTHER
DAY...



IF YOU
THINK
IT'S OKAY
TO GO TO
A SEEDY
HANDOUT
SPOT LIKE
THAT...

THEN
WHAT'S TO
STOP YOU
FROM THINK-
ING IT'S OKAY
TO GO TO A
GAME CENTER?



I REMEMBER
RUNNING TO
A GAME
CENTER
THINKING
WE WERE
DOING
NOTHING
WRONG!

GAME ★★

GOTTA
PEEL!

GOTTA
PEEL!

GAME

WE WERE
UNDER
THE IMP-
RESSION
THAT OUR
TEACHER
DIDN'T
MIND IF
WE WENT
TO A GAME
CENTER...

IN 5TH GRADE, I WAS BAD AT STUDYING, GYM, HOME EC, ART, AND EVERYTHING ELSE. I WAS ALREADY STUCK BEHIND AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX. MY TEACHER, MRS. Y, FOUND ME AT THE PLASTIC MODEL STORE ISHIDARA AND YELLED AT ME. SHE WAS UPSET AND NO LONGER LIKED ME. OVER TIME, MY WILL TO DO SCHOOL WORK BECAME LESS AND LESS. I REMEMBER SULKING ABOUT IT.

ONLY ONE PERSON SCORED 0 POINTS IN CLASS. EVERYONE RAISED THEIR HAND IN CLASS, EXCEPT ME. I NEVER COULD. SOMETIMES I WOULD ACTUALLY SERIOUSLY STUDY, BUT BY THE NEXT DAY, MY MIND WOULD BE TOTALLY BLANK. MY FENI WAS THAT WHICH WE CALL "STUDYING." AS IF IT WERE CONSTRUCTED SOLELY TO SHUT ME OUT. ANNOYED THAT I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING, MY REGRETMENT GREW. I ASKED OF MYSELF AS I CONTINUED TO BE SO STUPID. "WHY ME?" MY ADOLESCENCE WAS SPENT GRADUALLY HATING MYSELF MORE AND MORE... I HAVE MANY MEMORIES OF GAMES BEING THE THING THAT KEPT ME GOING.

GAMES WERE SOMETHING I COULD DO WAY BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE. IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, I NEVER LOST EVEN ONCE AT STREET FIGHTER II. IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AT THE GAME CENTER, I WON 24 TIMES STRAIGHT IN SAMURAI SHODOWN AS SSAMAI. IN HIGH SCHOOL, AS PHOBOS IN VAMPIRE HUNTER I SOMEHOW WON 86 TIMES IN A ROW.

GAMES WERE WHAT I SPECIALIZED IN AND ALL I DESIRED. I LOVED GAMES AND BECAUSE I WAS AT THE GAME CENTER A LOT, I HAD A LOT OF FRIENDS. I EVEN FOUND A CHEAT CODE FOR INSTAKILL IN KING OF FIGHTERS '98 - I TOLD MY CLOSE FRIENDS ABOUT IT SO WE COULD USE IT AGAINST THE GUYS WE HATED. BUT THERE WERE MERITS AND DEMERITS. IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, IF THE PIT BULLIES SAW US AT THE GAME CENTER, THEY'D CATCH US AND BEAT US UP. MY FRIENDS WOULD GET EXTORTED FOR MONEY OR IT'D BE TAKEN BY FORCE, AND IT TOOK A LOT OF MONEY TO GO TO THE GAME CENTER. HOW HARD IT WAS TO GATHER UP CHANGE... UNKNOWINGLY TO OUR PARENTS WE WENT THROUGH MONEY LIKE IT GREW ON TREES, USING UP ALL THE LOOSE CHANGE. I REMEMBER MY PARENTS GETTING VERY ANGRY ABOUT THAT.

A LOT HAPPENED BACK THEN, BUT THEY'VE ALL BECOME SOOP MEMORIES. I STILL CAN REMEMBER MY DILIBILITY TO ACHIEVE IN SCHOOL AT THE TIME. THE TIME I SPENT PLAYING AT THE GAME CENTER IN MY YOUTH, THINKING I WAS WORTHLESS... I AM TRULY HAPPY THAT I WAS ABLE TO WRITE THIS "PICO PICO BOY" COMIC ABOUT THOSE EXPERIENCES. WHAT IS LEFT NOW AS IMAGES IS MY THOUGHTS THAT PERHAPS IT WAS RIGHT TO WALK THE ROAD OF OBSESSION WITH GAMES, AND I FIND MYSELF SATISFIED WITH THE NEXT STEP. I AM ENDEARED TO CONTINUE, WHICH PUBLISHED "PICO PICO BOY" AND MURAKAMI-SAN.

I AM ALSO EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO MY READERS WHO HAVE ENCOURAGED ME ALL THIS TIME. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

... ANYWAY, ONCE THIS AFTERWORD IS DONE, I'M GONNA GO PLAY BEARS OF WAR 2 ON MY XBOX 360. BECAUSE NOW THAT I CAN CALL MYSELF A PICO PICO BOY WITH PRIDE, I'M GOING TO BE PLAYING FROM NOW ON.

RENSUKE OSHIKIRI





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